

We claim:

1. A method of providing notification to an operator of an automation network having an intelligent automation device and a network device located on the automation network, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing a signal from the network device;

transmitting an object to a receiving device operably connected to the network for notifying the operator, the object being responsive to the signal.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving device comprises means for displaying the object.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the means for displaying the object is a web browser.
  - 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the object is a Java-like program.
- 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the intelligent automation device is a programmable logic controller.
- 6. The method of claim 1 further including transmitting a response to the intelligent automation device.
- 7. A notification system for an automation network having a network device located on the automation network, the notification system comprising:
- a sensor for monitoring the network device, the sensor being operably connected to the automation network;

an intelligent automation device operably connected and responsive to the sensor, the intelligent automation device having an object; and,

a receiving device operably connected to the automation network, wherein the intelligent automation device transmits the object to the receiving device to notify the operator.

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8. The notification system of claim 7 wherein the receiving device comprises a software module to interact with the intelligent automation device. 5 9. The notification system of claim 7 wherein the receiving device has means for displaying the object. 10. The notification system of claim 9 wherein the means for displaying comprises a web browser. 10 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the object is a Java-like program. 12. The notification system of claim 7 wherein the intelligent automation device is a programmable logic controller. 15 13. The method of claim 7 wherein the object is an extensible markup language (XML). 14. The method  $\phi$ f claim 7 wherein the object is a wireless application 20 protocol (WAP). 15. The method of claim 7 wherein the object is a hyper text markup language (HTML). 16. The method of claim 7 wherein the object is a WML language. 25 17. A notification system for an automation network having an intelligent automation device responsive to a network device located on the automation network, the notification system comprising: 30 an object embedded in the intelligent automation device; and,

a receiving device operably connected to the intelligent automation device, wherein the intelligent automation device transmits the object to the receiving device.

- 18. The notification system of claim 17 wherein the receiving device comprises a software module to interact with the intelligent automation device.
  - 19. The notification system of claim 17 wherein the receiving device has means for displaying the object.
- The notification system of claim 19 wherein the intelligent automation device is a programmable logic controller.